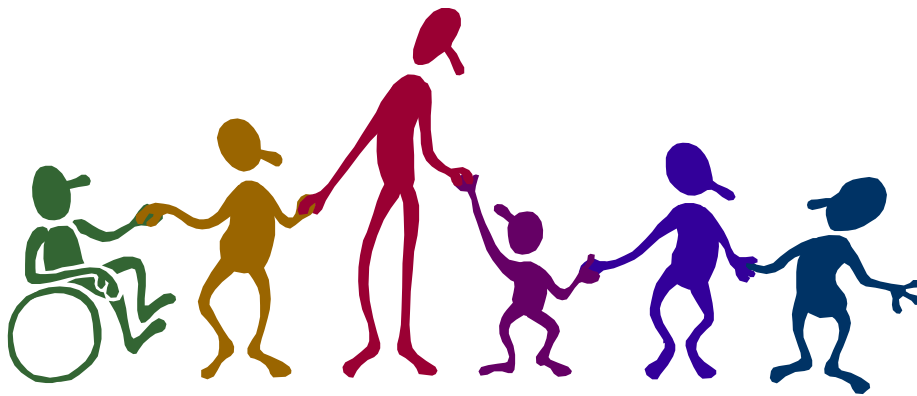


***South Dakota Department of  
Education  
Advisory Panel for Children with  
Disabilities***

***2003/2004 Annual Report***



**Meeting Dates**

*July 17, 2003 - King's Inn, Pierre, SD*

*October 2-3, 2003 – Children's Home Society, Rockerville,  
SD*

*January 30, 2004 – DNN Video Teleconference, Multiple  
State Sites*

*April 22, 2004 – South Dakota State University, Brookings,  
SD*

**Chairman of the Board** - Dr. Greg Cooch- assistant professor,  
Black Hills State University

**Duties include:**

- **Presiding at all meetings**
- **Planning and organizing meetings with the executive committee**
- **Preparing meeting agendas with the executive committee**
- **Assisting in preparing and submitting the annual report**

**Vice Chairperson** - Ms. Barb Koenders- parent, Brookings

**Duties include:**

- **Presiding at meetings when the chairperson is absent**
- **Planning and organizing meetings with the executive committee**
- **Preparing meeting agendas with the executive committee**
- **Assisting in preparing and submitting the annual report**

**Board Members**

**Shirley Albright-** individual with a disability, Sioux Falls

**Karn Barth-** administrator, Garretson school District

**Michelle Cogley-** parent, Claremont

**Jim Dunston-** Special Education Director, Custer Boot Camp

**Gail Eichstadt-** parent, Pierre

**Bernie Grimme-** Assistant Director, Division of Rehabilitation Services

**Nicole Haneke-** parent, Miller

**Lisa Heckenlaible-** special educator, Mitchell Middle School

**Judy Hoscheid-** Auxillary Placements Program, Social Services

**Greg King-** special education administrator, Sioux Falls School District

**Bertina Larcher-** parent, Custer

**Amanda Laufenschlager-** parent, Aberdeen

**Connie McClintock-** parent, Sioux Falls

**Kevin Steele-** Children's Home Society

**Heather Stettnichs-** parent, Brandon

**Staff Members**

**Deb Barnett**

**Angie Boddicker**

**Ann Larsen**

**Dawn Smith**

**Jan Elsing**

**Michelle Powers**

**Mary Weigandt**

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## **Panel Purpose**

***The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires the establishment of a special education advisory panel to provide suggestions and advice to the State Department of Education on critical issues regarding special education services throughout South Dakota.***

## **Panel Functions**

- Advise the SEA of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities***
- Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities***
- Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618 of the Act***
- Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act***
- Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities***
- Review and comment on final due process hearing findings and decisions***
- Advise on eligible students with disabilities in adult prisons- The advisory panel also shall advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons***

### **\*Panel Priorities:**

1. *Addressing the pending reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*
2. *Child Find*
3. *Ensuring quality service providers are available to children with disabilities*

*\*Board members were divided into three groups to address the three areas.*

### ***Priority 1: Addressing the pending IDEA- potential of having the panel comment on pending legislation/implementing regulations***

*Member Participants: Bernie Grimme, Gail Eichstadt, and Jim Dunston*

*Outcome: Resulting IDEA law and regulations would reflect Advisory Panel's input*

#### ***Activities:***

- *Identify proposed and final changes in IDEA*
- *Comparative analysis of House and Senate version of IDEA*
- *Comparative analysis of current and final IDEA*
- *Regular updates from interest groups and South Dakota Special Education Programs to Council members*
- *Special Education would provide updates as a standing agenda item*

#### ***Indicators:***

- *Committee presents list of recommendations to panel*
- *Panel would identify supporting concepts*
- *Panel would submit comments on Federal Law, Federal Regulations, State Law, and State Rules*

#### ***Results:***

- *Panel members would increase their knowledge and understanding of the IDEA*
- *Final Federal Law, Federal Regulations, State Law and State Rules would reflect Panel's input*

***Current Legislative Discussion:***

- ***Open enrollment concerning special education students- a proposed change in wording***
- ***Reallocation of the special education fund***
- ***Effort factor in the special education formula to 1.25%***
- ***Rules regarding the use of alternate achievement standards in the calculation of annual yearly progress***

***Potential Changes in IDEA:***

- ***May use a response to intervention approach regarding the model used for determination of students with learning disabilities (This would be a major change from the current system of identification)***

***Upcoming Projects:***

***The Panel will determine a process to make written comment (i.e. letter to the Senate) on the pending IDEA reauthorization***

***Priority 2: Child Find-*** ensuring all students are identified properly in the state, addressing possible under-identification of students (students qualifying under the category of emotional disturbed as an example), and addressing possible service provider problems

***Member Participants:***

***Greg Cooch, Lisa Heckenlaible, Shirley Albright, Kevin Steele, Amanda Lautenschlager, and Judy Hoscheid***

***Outcome: Consistent identification to ensure children in need of special education are recognized early and special education services are more appropriately provided***

***Activities:***

- ***Increase public awareness to parents and professionals of early identification efforts***
- ***Generate information through a variety of media regarding early identification screening***
- ***Provide data to parents and professionals regarding identification and service provision to children with disabilities***
- ***Review eligibility criteria for identifying children***
- ***Coordinate with other state agency advisory panels to develop consistent methods of identification of children with disabilities***
- ***Disseminate consistent criteria to all school districts***

***Indicators:***

- *Number of children identified occurs earlier in age than present data shows*

**Results:**

- *Using consistent methods of identification of children with disabilities*
- *Appropriate services are provided to meet the needs of the child*
- *Early intervention*

## ***Priority 3: Quality Services Providers-***

***Ensuring quality services providers are available in the state to provide special education and related services***

***Member Participants:***

***Greg King, Connie McClintock, Barb Koenders, Nicole Haneke, and Michele Cogley***

***Outcome: Impact the number of qualified applicants for special education teaching and related services positions- Broaden the knowledge base of current providers***

***Activities:***

- *Randomly survey of school districts on how they handle recruitment and retention of special education teachers*
- *Review what colleges are doing for keeping/recruiting teachers for South Dakota*
- *Review pay grade structures and other supports (i.e. IEP facilitator)*
- *Review continuing education teacher training options available in South Dakota*
- *Determine cost effective training that's available throughout the State of South Dakota*
- *Special Education courses for general education teachers DDN options*
- *Survey school districts on special education support services*
- *Encourage professionals of district to attend training provided by grant*
- *South Dakota Parent Connection presentation to panel*
- *Who gets the training grant- Monitor or keep abreast of what the organization will be offering*
- *The colleges and universities way to recruit Special Education service providers*
- *Draft creative/innovative options as incentives other than money*
- *Create a composite list of options available and distribute for all school district*

- ***Present to the panel the results and recommend appropriate needs for general education teachers to take more special education courses***

***Indicators:***

- ***The number of qualified applicants for special education positions shall increase within the next three years- The number of current service providers who receive additional training in special education shall increase***

***Results:***

- ***The number of qualified applicants for special education jobs will increase***
  - ***Reduction of turnover of special education teachers and service providers***
  - ***General education teachers will have a broader knowledge of special education and/or children with disabilities***
  - ***College curriculum for teacher training will be based on the rising needs of school districts, the public, and children with disabilities***
- 

## **Transition Services Liaison Project**

***Bev Petersen informed the panel on opportunities such as Project Skills, Catch the Wave, and Youth Leadership Forum Camp. Gail Eichstadt has a son who will be attending the Youth Leadership Forum this year and she will report back concerning this event.***

## **Educational Services Agency System**

***This system has been funded since spring 2004. There will be seven clustered Educational Service Agencies that will be working with the local schools on reading and math. Michelle Powers will have more information at the next meeting.***

## **Project ENRICH - promotes enrichment of the teaching and learning environments for all children, from birth through age 21**

***Two SIG (South Dakota Improvement Grant) subgrants will be awarded to two regions in South Dakota.***

## **Annual Performance Report**

*The APR was turned into the Federal Government on March 30, 2004. Michelle Powers will be summarizing the document to be distributed on a statewide basis. The report includes the five cluster areas listed below.*

*Cluster Area 1- General Supervision*

*Cluster Area 2- Early Childhood Transitions*

*Cluster Area 3- Parent Involvement*

*Cluster Area 4- FAPE and LRE*

*Cluster Area 5- Secondary Transition*

## **Alternate Assessment**

*Michelle Powers discussed new federal flexibility regarding alternate assessment, alternate achievement standards, students who are limited English proficient, and some elements concerning highly qualified teachers under No Child Left Behind.*

## **Upcoming Items for Discussion**

- Information on the state funding formula*
- Officer elections*
- Different methodology for obtaining parent comment/input*
- Process for the Panel to use to make written comment on the pending reauthorization*

## **Individuals to Include in Upcoming Discussion**

- John Copenhaver, Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center*
- Dr. Rick Melmer, Secretary, Department of Education*
- Deborah Barnett, Deputy Secretary, Department of Education*